

I was the tech coordinator in a school serving low income students in Oakland, CA for 14 years. Seven of those years the principal assigned me to be in charge of doing all the e-rate paperwork. Since I retired, I have been volunteering to do e-rate work for my former school as well as two other low income schools.

E-rate funds have enabled these schools with at risk students to have the same kind of connectivity high income schools have. If it had not been for e-rate funding the students would have had to wait for years for up to date and functioning networks. Because of e-rate paying for 90% of costly wiring, switches, routers and wireless access points, the students and staff have modern, fast access to helpful and necessary Internet information and educational activities.

E-rate paying towards services of basic administration vendors has kept networks very reliable and functioning smoothly. Also e-rate paying 90% of phone and Internet service provider charges has enabled the schools to have up to date communication.

I am hoping that e-rate funds will continue to level the playing field and that funding will increase so that every student will have access to modern educational technology.